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GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
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NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0380

LANA C. SEIVERS, Ed.D.
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of Schools and Special Education Directors
FROM:  Joseph Fisher, Assistant Commissioner
DATE: October 15, 2003
RE: **ENROLLMENT IN ONLINE COURSES IN SPEECH LANGUAGE**

The Tennessee Department of Education, Division of Special Education, has recently initiated a contract with the Department of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology at Tennessee State University to offer the prerequisite courses for the Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology online. This partnership represents another first for Tennessee toward ensuring that we have a properly prepared and qualified teaching workforce for all of Tennessee's students.

Currently, TSU is preparing to offer *SPTH 310 - Introduction to Human Communications Disorders*, and *SPTH 350 - Language and Speech Development of Children* beginning spring 2004. Thus, your Bachelor level teachers (speech language pathologists working outside their endorsement areas) who are interested in pursuing a Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology are encouraged to enroll in these courses. Enrollment will be limited. Other prerequisite courses will be offered during the summer and fall of 2004, enabling the participants to complete the program in three additional academic years with matriculation during the spring, summer and fall semesters. Financial support in the form of tuition remission and an allowance for books and fees will be provided for eligible students. The attachments provide additional information, including selection criteria and procedures for applying. **These online courses in Speech Language begin January 12, 2004.**

Please disseminate this information to your speech language pathologists and other appropriate school personnel and ensure that the attached application is returned by November 01, 2003. See the Department of Education's website (www.state.tn.us/education/speced/) for additional applications. Applicants will be notified of selection status by December 05, 2003. If you have questions or need other information, contact Dr. Cleo J. Harris (615-532-3259; cleo.harris@state.tn.us) or Dr. Tina Smith (615-963-7081 or 7057; Tsmith31@Tnstate.edu).

CJH/edg

Attachments

cc: Commissioner Lana Seivers
Deputy Commissioner Keith Brewer
Dr. Harold Mitchell
Dr. Tina Smith
Dr. Cleo J. Harris
DOE Staff